

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the previously submitted claims appearing in the above-noted application.

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel container comprising an inner barrier layer of polyacetal resin in intimate unbonded, and substantially continuous surface-to-surface contact with an outer polyolefin layer operative to absorb impact and distribute an applied force, the two layers optionally being mechanically linked at one or more copular regions, but being otherwise capable of independent local displacement with respect to each other, wherein the fuel container has a capacity of about 5 gallons or less.
2. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 1, wherein the two layers are linked by one or more copular regions and wherein said copular regions occupy less than 5% of the surface area between layers.
3. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 2, wherein the two layers are linked by one or more copular regions and wherein said copular regions occupy less than 1% of the surface area between layers.
4. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 1, wherein said polyacetal inner layer is a polyacetal copolymer resin.
5. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 4, wherein said polyacetal copolymer consists of a copolymer of trioxane and ethylene oxide.
6. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 4, wherein said polyacetal copolymer consists of a copolymer of trioxane and 1,3-dioxolane.
7. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 1, wherein said polyacetal inner layer is a polyacetal homopolymer resin.

8. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 1, wherein said polyacetal inner layer has a thickness of from 0.005 to 0.1 inches.
9. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 8, wherein said polyacetal inner layer has a thickness of from 0.01 to 0.08 inches.
10. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 9, wherein said polyacetal inner layer has a thickness of from 0.015 to 0.06 inches.
11. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 1, wherein said polyolefin outer layer is high density polyethylene (HDPE).
12. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 1, wherein said polyolefin outer layer has a thickness of from 0.010 to 0.15 inches.
13. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 12, wherein said polyolefin outer layer has a thickness of from 0.030 to 0.125 inches.
14. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 13, wherein said polyolefin outer layer has a thickness of from 0.060 to 0.1 inches.
15. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 1, wherein said container has a capacity of about 1 gallon or less.
16. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 15, wherein said container has a capacity of about 1/2 gallon or less.
17. (Original) The fuel container according to claim 16, wherein said container has a capacity of about 1 quart or less.

18. (Withdrawn—Currently Amended) A method of making a fuel container by way of blow-molding comprising: (a) preparing a moldable multilayer parison comprising an inner polyacetal resin layer in intimate and direct contact with an outer polyolefin layer thereof; and (b) blow molding the parison into the container shape, including mechanically linking the polyacetal layer and the polyolefin layer at one or more copular regions, whereby the fuel container comprises an inner barrier layer of polyacetal resin in intimate unbonded, and substantially continuous surface-to-surface contact with an outer polyolefin layer operative to absorb impact and distribute an applied force, the two layers being mechanically linked at one or more copular regions, but being otherwise capable of independent local displacement with respect to each other, wherein the fuel container has a capacity of about 5 gallons or less.

19. (Withdrawn—Currently Amended) The method fuel container according to claim 18, wherein said copular regions occupy less than 5% of the surface area between layers.

20. (Withdrawn—Currently Amended) The method fuel container according to claim 19, wherein said copular regions occupy less than 1% of the surface area between layers

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein said fuel container is prepared by the process of co-extrusion blow molding.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein said polyacetal inner layer is a polyacetal copolymer resin.

23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 22, wherein said polyacetal copolymer consists of a copolymer of trioxane and ethylene oxide.

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 22, wherein said polyacetal copolymer consists of a copolymer of trioxane and 1,3-dioxolane.

25. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein said polyacetal inner layer is a polyacetal homopolymer resin.
26. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein said polyacetal is supplied to a multimanifold co-extrusion die at a melt temperature of from about 350.degree. F. to about 375.degree. F.
27. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 26, wherein said polyacetal is supplied to the die at a melt temperature of from about 355.degree. F. to about 365.degree. F.
28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein said polyolefin outer layer is high density polyethylene (HDPE).
29. (Withdrawn—Currently Amended) A method of making a fuel container by Co-Injection Molding comprising: (a) injection molding a first resin layer in the shape of the container; and (b) injection molding a second resin layer in intimate and direct contact with the first layer in the shape of the container, such that there is provided an inner and outer layer mechanically linked at one or more copular regions; and wherein the inner layer is an inner barrier layer of polyacetal resin in intimate unbonded, and substantially continuous surface-to-surface contact with an outer polyolefin layer operative to absorb impact and distribute an applied force, the two layers being mechanically linked at one or more copular regions, but being otherwise capable of independent local displacement with respect to each other, wherein the fuel container has a capacity of about 5 gallons or less.
30. (Withdrawn—Currently Amended) The fuel container according to claim 29 [[37]], wherein said copular regions occupy less than 5% of the surface area between layers.
31. (Withdrawn—Currently Amended) The fuel container according to claim 29 [[38]], wherein said copular regions occupy less than 1% of the surface area between layers.